

Request for Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 10/669,698

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takikura (6,394,380) in view of Bowers (3,808,906) and Hillingrathner (3,667,317).

Analysis

The Examiner has supplemented the previous rejection of claims 3-5 with Hillingrathner. In particular, the Examiner turns to Hillingrathner for teaching the use of an annular ring for an elastic damping member.

To review briefly, the present invention is directed to using an elastic member in order to exhibit different effects for the power transmission mechanism of a fishing reel. The elastic member is provided with a power transmitting instrument for facilitating transmission of power from a rotating handle to a rotor. See Figs. 3 and 5-8, for example.

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to provide the elastic inserts of Bowers between the interlocking teeth of Takikura. Further, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to additionally modify the Takikura/Bowers device so that the elastic inserts were instead one annular ring as suggested by Hillingrathner. Applicants respectfully disagree with this analysis for the following reasons.

First, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have thought to modify the individual teeth inserts of Bowers with the annular ring of Hillingrathner. As disclosed in Hillingrathner, the annular elastic ring 16 in Hillingrathner is provided between the hub 14 and the teeth 15 of the gear 3, or alternatively, between the hub (unlabeled) and teeth (unlabeled) of the gear 6. Thus, there is no suggestion for modifying the individual teeth inserts of Bowers with the annular ring of Hillingrathner, because the Takikura/Bowers device could not operate with an annular

ring between the interlocking teeth since a ring would prevent the teeth from interlocking properly, causing the teeth to slip and ultimately the gears to slip.

On the other hand, if one were to use the teachings of Hillingrathner and move the elastic member in the Takikura/Bowers device from the area between the teeth to the area between the hub and teeth, this modified device would not arrive at the present invention. In the present invention, the elastic member is coaxial with the second gear and provided at the second shaft so as to elastically contact with the friction transmission rotating part. See Figs. 6-8 for example.

Thus, the combination of cited references would merely teach placing the insert between the interlocking gear teeth, which would render the device inoperable, or to have an elastic insert between the hub and teeth of one or more of the gears. The combination of references would fail to teach or suggest that the annular elastic member is coaxial so as to contact in the arrangement of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 3 and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 3 at this time.

The remaining rejections are directed to claims 4 and 5. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 3, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

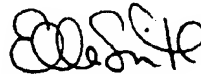
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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